

Fighting to put our economy back on track and families back to work, Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) has worked throughout her first term in Congress to deliver investments in clean jobs training and renewable energy to the 11th District of Illinois, helping to create a prepared workforce and greater opportunities for sustainable clean jobs in the future.

"As we continue our focus on putting people back to work, we must ensure the jobs of tomorrow are ones that will stay right here in Illinois - and we can create those long-lasting jobs for our working men and women if we invest in our workers," said Halvorson. "It's important that the labor force of my district is prepared to take advantage of these jobs. From the workers building wind turbines to insulators working to make our buildings greener and more energy efficient, there are many possibilities to create better opportunities for our communities, and better futures for our families."

Earlier this year, Halvorson helped to deliver a grant provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that will provide investment in the National Ironworkers and Employers Apprenticeship Training and Journeyman Upgrading Fund through the local Joliet apprenticeship program. Increased funding in this program will translate to more highly skilled iron workers in the 11th District, and greater opportunities for local workers to build clean energy sources such as wind turbines.

In McLean County, Halvorson worked to secure \$250,000 last fall for Heartland Community College's Illinois Community College Sustainability Network, which will train the next generation of Illinois leaders in how to take advantage of clean industries and make the state more competitive in a growing global market.

Delivering funding to develop the next generation of wind turbines in LaSalle County, Halvorson helped secure an \$8 million dollar grant for the Illinois Institute of Technology to build an experimental wind turbine near Marseilles. This turbine will allow researchers to test the performance and reliability of new wind power technologies, and lead to a new generation of more efficient and effective turbines.

Additionally, Halvorson secured \$200,000 in funding towards construction of Illinois Valley Community College's Technology and Workforce Development Center for high-tech job training programs to provide local workers with the tools necessary to prepare for new, quality jobs.

Working to increase training opportunities in Kankakee, Halvorson secured \$400,000 for Kankakee Community College's Renewable Energy Training Laboratories, which will provide hands-on training for jobs in solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, and wind energy technologies.

"We are excited about the support from Congresswoman Halvorson's office for the funding. This support will continue to help Kankakee Community College be a leader in the State for renewable energy education and training," said Kankakee Community College President John Avendano. "More importantly, our students will be able to learn the skills that will be needed for green jobs in the immediate and distant future."